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Letter dated 7 September 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 July 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. Annan

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 July 2006.

2. As at 31 July 2006, the total number of troops in theatre was 16,492, which included 2,066 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There was no change in the status of partner non-NATO country contributions.

Security

4. The overall security situation in Kosovo remains calm but tense. A meeting of the top leadership of both Pristina and Belgrade to discuss the future status of Kosovo was held on 24 July 2006. The negotiating parties failed to achieve significant progress.

5. During the month of July, only one inter-ethnic incident was reported.

6. During the same period, there were no incidents of violence or threats directed against the Kosovo Force (KFOR).

7. A total of 343 organized crime incidents occurred during the reporting period, compared to 486 incidents recorded in the previous month. Weapons seizures still make up the vast majority of incidents.

8. KFOR continues operations to prevent ethnic violence and to protect confidential sites and some cultural areas proposed by the Office of the Special Envoy for the future status process for Kosovo. It remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases.

9. The German Operational Reserve Force Battalion was declared operational on 24 July 2006.

Compliance by the Army of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

10. There is nothing to report.

Kosovo Protection Corps

11. In terms of the status of non-compliance cases, the final decision for [illegible] requested by the Disciplinary Board at its first meeting was signed on [illegible] 2006 by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The requested sanctions were approved. Ten more cases are still pending.

12. KFOR continues to support UNMIK in training the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC). The KFOR liaison team for KPC continues to ensure compliance through the [illegible] supervision of KPC, using unannounced roll calls and inspections. KPC [illegible] in July were conducted at a reduced level because of the vacation period. During the month of July, 34 KPC members were dismissed and 20 new ethnic [illegible] members were appointed.

13. The recruitment of minorities remains a KPC priority. The current active personnel establishment is 3,082. The percentage of active ethnic minorities remains

the same (6.69 per cent). KPC conducted 11 courses with 215 attendees. During the month of July, there were eight ceremonies in different locations; no incidents were reported.

Conclusion

14. The overall situation in Kosovo is calm but the political uncertainty related to the status talks may raise some tension in the near term. It appears, however, that the population is more concerned by daily-life difficulties than politics. In an effort to influence the status talks, some Kosovo Serbs and Belgrade could exploit every incident in an attempt to increase tension in order to portray a lack of security in Kosovo. The threat level against UNMIK and other international community facilities remains medium, and the threat level against KFOR is low.